

CENTRAL PACIFIC  
CONFERENCE

# NEWS

UNITED CHURCH  
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## CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY CELEBRATES SPIRITUAL RENEWAL PRIORITY: TAKES ACTION ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES

When delegates from Conference churches converged on First Congregational Church, Nampa, October 17 through 19, there were 150 delegates and 30 visitors from 40 churches gathered to explore the Spiritual Renewal Priority of the denomination. During their week-end together they explored the theme through worship experiences, a variety of workshops, fellowship opportunities and a keynote presentation by Ken Iha.

At a Saturday afternoon business session the delegates discussed, debated and acted on four resolutions and a Conference By-Laws amendment. The following actions were taken:

The delegates rejected an amendment to the Conference By-Laws which would have removed the four year term of office for the Conference Minister.

The delegates voted favorably on a resolution submitted by the Mission and Outreach Committee which declared the Assembly's opposition to any efforts by state or federal governments to restrict freedom of choice in the area of abortion and called upon the churches of Oregon to work to defeat a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution which would prohibit the use of state funding for abortions except to prevent the death of the mother.

The Assembly approved a resolution which endorsed the goals and work of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, requested membership in the Oregon Affiliate and called upon the churches to become involved in study and action regarding issues surrounding abortion. (The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights is a coalition of 31 religious groups with divergent theological perspectives who have agreed to work together to preserve and uphold religious freedom and freedom of choice in the area of abortion through education and support of laws which do not restrict those freedoms.)

In an action referred to the Fall Assembly by the Spring Assembly, the delegates passed a resolution on the issue of sanctuary for Central American refugees which, among other provisions, indicated that the Assembly would "Support through prayer and Christian concern the efforts of the Ashland United Church of Christ and other churches who wish to provide sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala."

In a final action, the delegates passed and referred to General Synod 16 which will meet in Cleveland this next Summer a resolution which affirmed the relationship between the issues of church growth and evangelism and issues of peace and justice.

The Conference will meet in Assembly again on May 15-17, 1987, at Bethel Congregational Church, Beaverton.

WONDERFUL  
SURPRISES

Property of  
Graduate Theological Union

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CHRISTMAS

## **UCC DIVESTMENT ACTIVITIES**

The UCC Executive Council, meeting in late October, has voted to withdraw all bank accounts of the church from Citibank, N.A., effective June 30, 1987. The action was taken in compliance with the General Synod's call for divestment. In another action on divestment, the Council requested the trustees of the UCC Pension Boards not to set up an alternative South Africa-free investment fund, but "to move with all due speed toward further divestment of its current portfolio." The Pension Board trustees have already lowered the level of South Africa stocks in its portfolio from 41% to 27.8% and with the announced withdrawal of General Motors, IBM and Honeywell the percentage will be further reduced to the low 20's.

Conference persons attending the meeting were Executive Council members Linda Mines Elliott, Jack Takayanagi and Don Sevetson.

## **NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL FORUM**

### **SLATES WILLIAMSON, SCHMIECHEN**

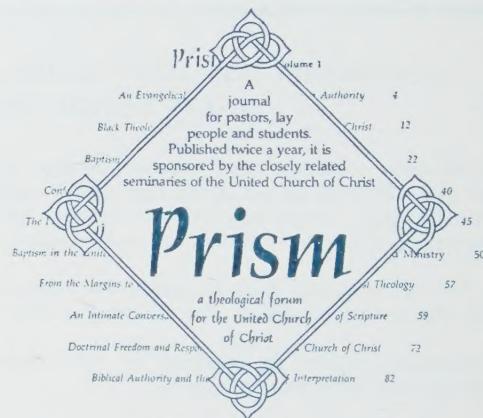
In what is being explored as a possible annual event, the Church and Ministry Committee of the Conference - in cooperation with the Washington-North Idaho Conference - is sponsoring the Northwest Theological Forum on Tuesday, December 2. There will be a Clergy Forum from 10 until 2, and a Laity Forum from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Both events will be held at The Community Church of Cedar Hills. Featured as speakers at both of the events are The Reverend Joseph Williamson, minister at Seattle's Plymouth Congregational Church, and Dr. Peter Schmiechen, President of Lancaster Seminary. They will be addressing the theme, "In Search of a Common Center: Theological Focus of the United Church of Christ."

## **CPC "WITNESS" VISIT CENTRAL,**

### **SOUTH AMERICA**

During the months of September and October several Conference persons were on eye-witness tours of Central and South America. Linda Clark, a member of the Forest Grove UCC, went to Chile in September as a part of the World Board's "Working with World Partners for Justice, Human Rights and Peace" project. The group arrived in Chile on the day that Pinochet had an attempt on his life and were witness to the tense days and events that followed. In October three members of First Congregational Church, Vancouver, went on a Witness for Peace tour of Nicaragua. That delegation included The Reverend Farley Maxwell, Tony Agerter and Mike Davis. Churches interested in hearing from any of these people should be in touch with them.

In January another group from the Conference will visit El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala with the Building Bridges Tour. With the enrollment period now concluded it appears there will be thirteen persons on the tour.



## **I & I COMMITTEE SEEKS MISSION NEWS**

The Conference Information and Interpretation Committee is seeking short articles from each CPC church on some area of mission work in which the congregation is active. These articles will then be shared in the CPC News, available for local church newsletters and may be used as bulletin inserts. The purpose of this project is to make members of Conference churches aware of the variety of mission work going on in the Conference. Members of the I&I Committee are certain that there is much exciting mission work going on and needs to be reported so that the wider mission outreach of the Conference will be known.

The articles should be submitted to committee member Charlotte Havlicak, 560 Calder Avenue, American Falls, Idaho 83211. They are welcome throughout the year.

### **TYPEWRITERS FOR SALE**

The Conference has two IBM Selectric typewriters for sale. One is a non-correcting model available for \$250, the other is a correcting model for sale at \$350-450. Both typewriters have been maintained under an IBM service contract.

## The Local Scene

**WELCOME** to Matthew Nelson who began his interim ministry at the Ione United Church of Christ on November 1. Matthew is a Spring, 1986 graduate of Pacific School of Religion. Matthew will serve the Ione congregation for the period of time it takes for the search committee to find a successor to The Reverend Cathy Barker who left at the end of September to go to Cadillac, Michigan.

**WELCOME ALSO** to The Reverend Dick Engstrom who began his interim ministry at Zion United Church of Christ on September 12. Dick and his wife, Nan, come to Central Pacific Conference from the Theological Training School in the Marshall Islands where they were the core faculty team.

First Congregational Church, Pocatello, has called Mary Sue Evers as interim minister during the time it takes the church to find a successor to the Reverend Bill Miles. Mary Sue, who graduated in the Spring from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, previously served as Youth Minister at the Lake Oswego UCC.

First Congregational Church, Portland, re-dedicated their education and fellowship facilities during morning worship on November 16. As part of the remodeling project the church has made the church more accessible to the handicapped installing a new lift to the fellowship hall and making the rest room accessible.

Smyrna United Church of Christ has been the victim of five burglaries since late Summer. Coming at night the culprits have stripped the church of the pictures on the walls, kitchen equipment, audio-visual equipment and antiques. On their last visit the night-time callers dismantled the newly installed alarm system. Members of the church are, understandably, demoralized by the situation. Churches who would like to offer assistance are asked to contact The Reverend Kurt Jernstrom.

The Reverend Doug Smyth, formerly Associate Minister at the Forest Grove UCC, has been hired by First Congregational Church, Eugene, as Assistant for Program Development, half-time position. The balance of Doug's time will be spent in a doctoral program in counseling at the University of Oregon.

**WELCOME** to Susan Jackson who has been hired to be Director of Christian Education at The Congregational Church, Medford, and to Cathy Tinker who has been hired at The Community Church of Cedar Hills, to guide the church's educational ministry.

The Reverend Cindy Lindner, Associate Minister at First Congregational Church, Corvallis, has resigned to accept the position as Co-Pastor of First Christian Church, Albany. Cindy will leave Corvallis at the end of December.

## INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION SEEKS VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER

The Information and Interpretation Committee which has as one of its responsibilities the interpretation of Conference mission is seeking a volunteer who will take pictures of Conference events and meetings. The Conference owns a 35mm camera which will be available for the volunteer to use following instruction on its use. Any persons interested in filling this volunteer position should contact the Conference office.

## The 1986 Christmas Fund

for the  
Veterans of the  
Cross and the  
Emergency  
Fund



The Rev. Kim On Chong, 76, was ordained in 1938. It is He served as pastor of the Wailuku Chinese Church on Maui, Hawaii, from 1938 to 1942, when he was called more to become chaplain at Mid-Pacific Institute on Oahu, where he remained until his retirement in 1975. The Rev. blessed Chong continues to supply pulpits in his native Hawaii. (Poster subjects contribute their services and are not fund recipients) to give...

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

When your church receives the annual Christmas Fund offering for the Veterans of the Cross, please remember this year's Christmas Fund theme: "It is more blessed to give. . . ."

The Christmas Fund provides help for retired ministers in need and assists United Church of Christ ministers who faces financial hardship. The Christmas Fund is one way we show that we care about our clergy and their families. Your generous contribution to the Christmas Fund this year will be appreciated.

## The Last Word

Open any magazine or turn on your television set these days and you are apt to be confronted with an advertisement from a bank, brokerage house, insurance company, or other financial institution urging you to use their services to help you plan your financial affairs. And, if your mailbox is anything like mine, almost every day of the week you will find two or three fund-raising appeals from various cultural or charitable organizations.



What's the connection? More and more, charitable organizations are offering to do something similar to what the financial institutions do—manage your money. That's part of what a "planned giving" program is all about—it's finding ways to help individuals have their cake and eat it too, by enabling them to make gifts to charities while retaining the right to receive income from their gifts during their lifetime. It's a good way to get the advantage of a professionally-managed investment portfolio, with very little risk to the donor, and the donor can often receive a higher level of income than he or she could through other investment vehicles.

But there is another important aspect to planned giving that I think every church member should consider, whether or not you are interested in the lifetime income type of gift—and that is remembering the church in your will. (If you think you don't have a will, by the way, you're wrong. Everyone has a will; because if you haven't taken the time to have a will prepared that reflects your wishes, the state has made one for you, by passing laws that define who will receive your possessions at your death. Why leave that decision to the state? Go have your own will made!)

Many individual factors go into determining what the best estate plan is for you, and providing for a surviving spouse or for minor children is obviously a top priority, if you're in that kind of family situation. But there is room in the responsible estate planning of almost any person for a gift of a percentage of your assets to the church upon your death, and I believe that responsible stewardship includes some kind of gift of that nature. It can be accomplished either

in your will itself, or by designating the church as the beneficiary of a certain portion of your life insurance proceeds. The amount of your bequest is not nearly so important as the fact that you cared enough about your church, and took your stewardship responsibilities seriously enough, that you were willing to continue helping the church with your financial resources after your death.

There are many creative ways for even the smallest congregation to use "planned giving" concepts to raise their income levels significantly over time. And there are many creative ways for church members with even the most modest income or assets to make gifts that will not cut into their current level of necessary support, that may in fact increase their current income, and that will become meaningful additions to the church's budget down the road. Several such programs are available now in the UCC. Talk to your pastor, or give the Conference office a call. You may be surprised what "planned giving" can do for you and for the church!

- Charles Hinkle



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Central Pacific Conference  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
0245 S W Bancroft St., Suite E  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Telephone (503) 228-3178

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